

ABSTRACT

Peptides as cell penetrating carriers

5 Compounds of formula (I) or their pharmaceutically or biologically
acceptable salts are useful as cell penetrating carriers. According to
formula (I), below, Val is L-Val or D-Val; Arg is L-Arg, D-Arg or L-(N-
methyl)Arg; Pro is L-Pro or D-Pro; Leu is L-Leu or D-Leu; x is an integer
10 from 1 to 20, preferably 3; L₁ and L₂ are chemical linkers; M₁ and M₂ are
pharmacologically and/or biologically active moieties; and the bond
between L₁ and M₁ and the bond between L₂ and M₂ are of the known
chemical natures, including covalent and ionic. Compared with other
previously described carrier peptides, this new family presents several
15 advantages including its non-viral origin, its amphipathic character, its
solubility in water and the absence of a cytotoxic effect at high
concentrations.



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